

Top Secret

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 25X1



PHOOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION
REPORT

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION CENTER

SOVIET 240MM SELF-PROPELLED HEAVY MORTAR M-1977 (TSR)

Top Secret

[REDACTED]

25X1

MARCH 1978

Copy **133**

PIR-012/78

25X1

[REDACTED]

Warning Notice
Sensitive Intelligence Sources and Methods Involved
(WNINTEL)

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions



25X1

DISSEMINATION CONTROL ABBREVIATIONS

NOFORN-	Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals
NOCONTRACT-	Not Releasable to Contractors or Contractor/Consultants
PROPIN-	Caution-Proprietary Information Involved
USIBONLY-	USIB Departments Only
ORCON-	Dissemination and Extraction of Information Controlled by Originator
REL . . . -	This Information has been Authorized for Release to . . .

Top Secret RUFF

25X1

SOVIET 240MM SELF-PROPELLED HEAVY MORTAR M-1977 (TSR)

1. (TSR) A 240mm self-propelled (SP) heavy mortar designated M-1977 has been observed deployed with heavy mortar regiments of the heavy artillery brigades at Drovyanyaya (Figure 1) and Novosysoyevka in the Soviet Transbaykal and Far East Military Districts. The new heavy SP mortar is replacing the older towed 240mm mortar and provides a significant increase in the mobility of the heavy mortar regiments.

2. (TSR) Each heavy artillery brigade formerly contained 24 240mm towed mortars. [redacted] 24 new heavy SP mortars were in the heavy mortar regiment area at Drovyanyaya SSM Mobile Missile Barracks AL 1/Headquarters [redacted] and the towed mortars had been removed. [redacted] three new heavy SP mortars were seen near the storage sheds in the heavy mortar regiment at Novosysoyevka IRBM Launch Site 2 [redacted] and no towed mortars were observed. The armored command vehicle (ACRV) M-1974 (Figure 2) has been deployed with the new SP mortar at both installations. At Drovyanyaya, there was one ACRV M-1974 for each four-tube battery.

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

3. (TSR) The 240mm heavy SP mortar M-1977 is mounted on a modified GANEF (SA-4) missile transporter chassis [redacted] The mortar barrel [redacted]

25X1

25X1

4. (TSR) The barrel of the heavy SP mortar has been observed in three positions: horizontal on the chassis (probable travel mode; Figure 3); horizontal, extending from the rear of the vehicle (probable loading position; Figure 4); and elevated, with the baseplate on the ground (probable firing position; Figure 5).

5. (S/WNINTEL) The deployment of the heavy SP mortar M-1977 has been concurrent with the deployment of a new heavy SP gun as yet undesignated to Drovyanyaya and Novosysoyevka.¹ This new SP gun is replacing the older towed 203mm gun howitzer in the heavy artillery regiments. A heavy artillery regiment and a heavy mortar regiment together make up a heavy artillery brigade.

25X1

MAPS OR CHARTS

SAC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, MPR 0201-4 and MPR 0282-22, scale 1:200,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

DOCUMENT

1. NPIC [redacted] SR-002/78, *Confirmed Deployment of A New Self-Propelled Gun Along the Sino-Soviet Border*, Jan 78 (TOP SECRET RUFF) [redacted]

25X1

25X1

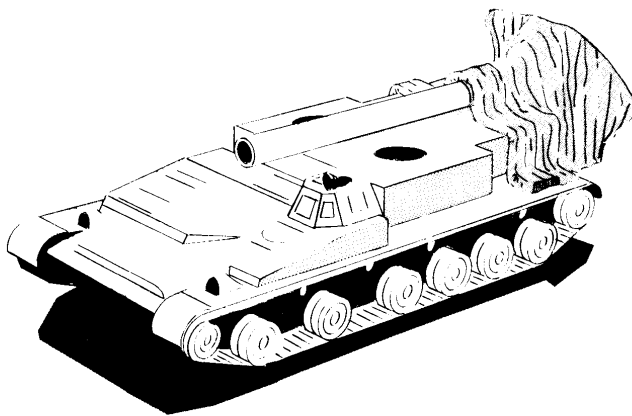
25X1

25X1

Page Denied

Top Secret RUFF

25X1



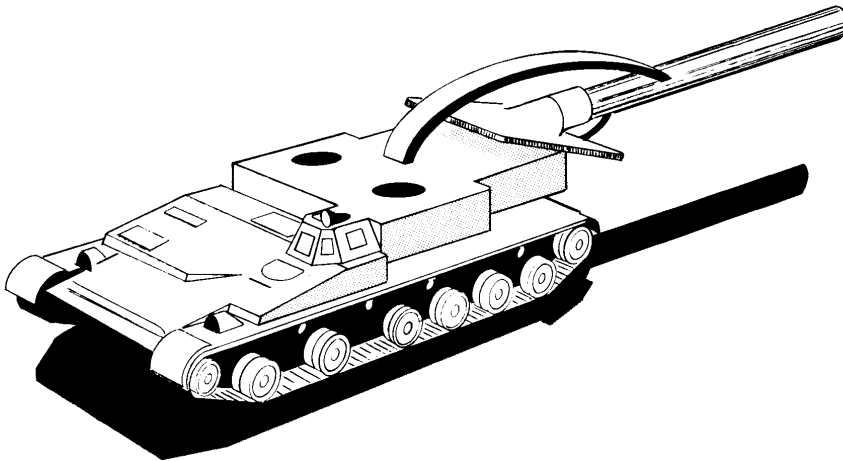
NPIC S-5179

FIGURE 3. CONCEPTUAL DRAWING OF HEAVY SP MORTAR M-1977 IN PROBABLE TRAVEL MODE

Top Secret

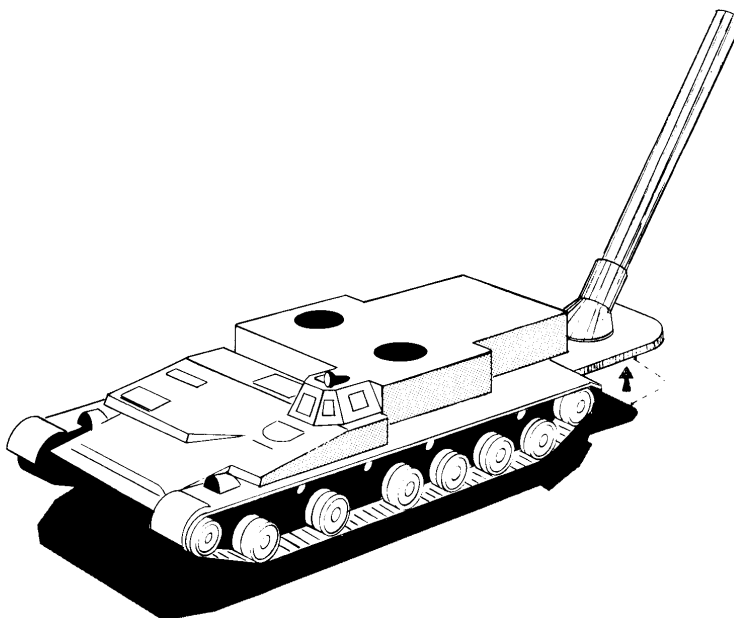
25X1

Top Secret RUFF



NPIC S-5180

FIGURE 4. CONCEPTUAL DRAWING OF HEAVY SP MORTAR IN PROBABLE LOADING POSITION



NPIC S-5181

FIGURE 5. CONCEPTUAL DRAWING OF HEAVY SP MORTAR IN PROBABLE FIRING POSITION

Top Secret

25X1

Top Secret



Top Secret